THE EXCITER

Published Free of Charge Monthly by The San Antonio Radio Club. Regular Meetings are Held First and Third Friday's of Each Month, Gunter Hotel. Visitors Always Welcome.

VOL. 2, No. 1 JANUARY, 1959 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

VHF AND UP

During the latter part of November and the first week in December, 50 mc conditions to Europe, Hawaii, and Japan were quite excellent. But the middle of December proved to be extremely poor. Often the European TV sigs did not show up on 45 and 48.25 mc.

The 27 day rotation period of the sun should help, however, since conditions for early January should be better. On 21 December, 45 and 48.25 ms sigs were received very good in San Antonio.

The current sunspot peak was reached during the end of 1957. Since the solar activity is now downward, it appears that the winter seasonal effect on the MUF is not great enough to repeat the terrific conditions of the last two winters. However, things should still be good to Africa in January and to Oceania until March.

A few sporadic E openings have helped keep things open, but mostly F2 two-hop conditions have really taken a drop.

When conditions were good, K5HVC, K500J, W5KRH, K5GEH, W5VY, K5HYF, and many others kept things hopping by chasing JA's 1BLZ, 1BTH, 9AHH, 2AGG, KH6's UK, NS, CTC, TT and AR, KL7AUV, and Europeans.

Other than untility FM stations on 45-48 mc, not much has been heard from So. America. On 6 December, HC1FS was worked by K5GEH and others. On 20 December, code station HDA82 (Ecuador) on 49.15 mc was heard (probably h-f harmonic).

The launching of the orbiting Atlas has re-kindled the spirits of the satellite observers. W5FMG, Brother Hamm of St. Mary's U. received the Atlas on the second day of flight for 3 consecutive passes, usually lasting about one minute each on 107.97 mc. Brother Bill uses a 4 element Yagi and converter with cavity to get rid of spurious signals. The Atlas sig is CW, and at 108 mc has much Doppler shift (up to 6 kc total!).

Congratulations are also due Brother Bill for receiving a Piper Foundation award of $1,000 for educational excellence. He is a professor of physics at St. Mary's U.

During the decline of solar activity is the time to ready our rigs to catch up with W5VY. Remember, he, W5JLY, and K5GEH only have a sunspot cycle of experience. We'll catch up with them in 1968! Good listening.

Cal, W5LFM

Cal Graf, W5LFM
207 Addax Drive
DI 4-5032

PROGRAMS

The program for Jan. 2 will be a discussion on short haul communications. There is going to be a club project started in the near future, on building a small two meter transmitter receiver power supply combination that can be duplicated by a large group of people, and at a cost that most of us can afford. Maybe we won't even have to hock anything to be able to afford the parts. Our experience out at the Sports Car Races recently showed us a lot of shortcomings.

The meeting for Jan. 16 will be a technical film. We have asked for a couple of good films, but haven't heard yet just which one we will get, so we can't tell you the name of it at this time.

AREC for San Antonio Area

This being the first issue of the new year I would like to suggest that one of your new years resolutions be as follows: "I resolve to take a more active part in helping my fellow ham and my community with the extension of communications under the true amateur spirit."

Gentlemen, amateur radio exists for the service it renders to the community whether it be local or national and not for the selfish interests of the individual. In recent years the true ham spirit has been masked by commercialism and indifference on the part of the individual. It is your obligation to utilize the privilege given you by the federal communications commission to transmit and receive on the assigned ham frequencies to the end purpose intended. One of the many end items is that of Emergency communications when required, this however requires training and some small portion of time for drills. One program which requires the least and helps the most is the AREC program. If your equipment is not registered at this time how about starting the new year by filling out the form to join the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps. Forms will be available at each of the Radio Club meetings during the month of January. If you can not make the meeting I will be glad to mail them to you on request.

73's
Ray W5EDZ

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas party was a howling success. The event took place at Shadowland on Dec. 20, and the meal consisted of ham, green beans, potatoes, macaroni and cheese, salad, coffee. There were four door prizes given by the local radio parts houses. Modern Radio gave a steam and dry iron, which was won by Ethel Chastain K5OPS. Radio and T.V. Parts gave a B.&W. Coax Switch which was won by a guest of Allen Durst K5pvi. Perry Shankle contributed a gift certificate worth several dollars, which was won by Derwin King W5LUU. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the above mentioned business establishments for the very fine gifts, for they were very well received and greatly appreciated, by one and all.

The music was furnished by The Esquires. That little band was one of the best that we have ever had for any of our parties. It was by far the liveliest of all the parties the club has ever had. We would like to thank the Ladies Club for the decorations, as they were really done up pretty. Entertainment, during the intermission, was furnished by Georeg Loos W5IFG (Pantomime). It was very enjoyable entertainment.

ORCHIDS

Orchids go to Brother Bill Hamm W5FMG, Professor of Physics at St. Mary's University, for having received a Piper Foundation award for education excellence. We are proud to num-

MODERN ELECTRONICS CO.

CA 7-7388 2000 Broadway CA 7-2467

See the new Hallicrafter SR-34
Combined 6 & 2 Meter transmitter receiver.

ber him as one of the life-time-member card holders of the San Antonio Radio Club. There is little we can add to the praise that has been poured out in his behalf, but we are very thankful for all the help that he has given the club, and the art of Radio in general. It is our wish that there were more like him.

So, to Brother Bill on this occasion, go our congratulations.

LADIES CLUB

The next meeting for the women's club will be Jan. 2, 1959, and it will be held at the Gunter Hotel at 8:00 p.m. It will be a fun meeting, and very little of the club business will be discussed. The entertainment will be bunco games.

The meeting of the 16th of January will be the business meeting of the month, and there will be a travelogue shown which should be of interest to everyone.

MOBILE

The Mobile Gang are now using surplus BC 659's and BC 1335's on 29.6 Mc. Some of them are W5EDZ, W5-EJT, W5HVM, K5AIL, K5AXD and K5AXE.

The Sport Car Races were enjoyed by all of the Hams that participated in furnishing the communications for the event. Thanks to one and all that helped make it a success. We have been asked by the Sports Car Club to furnish communications for the next event, which is to take place next spring.

The next transmitter hunt will be held January 4th. W5VPQ will hide the transmitter so let's start the new year off with a good hunt. We have been having six to eight hunters for each hunt here lately.

73's
Gene

RADIO & TELEVISION PARTS CO.

1828 N. St. Mary's St. **Phone CA 6-5329**

We wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making 1958 a very successful year for us, and invite your patronage in 1959.

We feature all the popular Amateur lines.

Marion
W5DBN

Don
K5CYJ

GUTTER DOPE

The Turnages' W5RSD are moving back to San Antonio, after living out at Lytle for about three years. Their new address will be 127 E. Creath, after the first of the year.

We hear that Ted Suggs W5EUI is going to leave the country, and wants to sell out. If you want some of those goodies, you will have to hurry, as they will go fast.

Since last issue, there have been two new additions to the club's ham family. Linda Cole, and Brian Clark, both out on Meadowbrook in Hollywood Park. Congrats to the proud parents.

Inez Cole W5EXT has now become a member of the YL Century Club. Congrats, Inez.

We wonder how Ethyl's feet feel now that they had time to cool off. She literally danced out of her shoes and hose at the Christmas party. We hear that she is helping Red bone-up for his General Class license. (I hope he makes it).

After the fuses blew, and the smoke cleared Willard W5FND got his new Apache transmitter going in good shape. I think he will watch his step from now on, and think carefully before he asks someone for a signal report tho. It seems he asked some young kid for a signal report, and he got an unfavorable one due to a poor receiver on the kids' part.

Pierre'

DX

DX news is a little scarce this month. The Christmas rush has kept most of us pretty busy I guess.

The following was borrowed from the West Gulf DX Club Bulletin:

"MP4DAA will listen for calls 10kc up from his frequency and not answer calls on his frequency. Bill Orr, W6SAI is active as 3AZAF. Looks like the FW8AS worked recently was legal. There is a Russian Fone contest coming up the last week of January. FB8CD is again active from Comorro's on 14mc C.W. UA1KEC works 14mc C.W. from Franz Josefland. There will be an expedition to FD8, French Togo land by 9G1CF, and VQ4EO with a RWM-1 on January 10, and 11, 1959.

W5IAH, Kerrville made 245 contacts, 80 countries, 33 zones in the recent C.W. DX contest.

I hope everyone has a happy and prosperous New Year filled with a lot of rare DX, and will make a resolution to let us know about it so everyone will be able to share your accomplishments with you.

73

Derwin W5LUU

THE EXCITER
P. O. BOX 62
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 1029

FORM 3547 REQUESTED